

There is a Northeast dairy compact provision in there to allow New England States to implement a price enhancement compact. We wish we could have gone further. The House acted yesterday on dairy legislation. Certainly in conference, it is my hope that we can refine and clarify dairy policy inside the farm bill for the coming year. The dairy industry of our country has worked now for the last 6 months with the House and the Senate Agriculture Committees to arrive at a compromise that reduces the overall budget profile for dairy programs and creates greater flexibility in the program. We hope that can get accomplished. Certainly there is a conservation foundation in this program that creates a nonprofit foundation to promote conservation. I know this has been something Senator LEAHY has worked at for a good number of years.

There is legislation in here also to deal with wetlands and the Florida Everglades issue. There is a concern that I will express for the RECORD that deals with this section as it applies to the program and the restoration of these vital wetlands in Florida. There is a provision for eminent domain. I think it is very important that the RECORD show that this Senator and many others recognize that authority of the Government, but also recognize under a former Executive order on March 15, 1988, signed by President Reagan, that Federal departments and agencies must consider the takings implication and deal with willing seller-willing buyer. I certainly, through the balance of this legislation, activities, debate, and in the conference, will work with the Senators from Florida to assure that in all instances we have a willing seller-willing buyer relationship as the State of Florida and the Senators from that State work to maintain the Florida Everglades and any consideration there with private property acquisition for the purpose of enhancement of the Everglades. All of us want to see that valuable natural resource protected. But at the same time, it is very important that the right of the private property owner be maintained.

Mr. President, I chair the Private Property Rights Caucus here on the Hill. We just brought out of the Judiciary Committee the private property rights bill that I think is sweeping in its protection of private property rights. It sets the Government on notice. Certainly this legislation, if that act would become law, would fall subject to that new law. That would be important.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before discussing today's bad news about the Federal debt, how about "another go," as the British put it, with our pop quiz. Remember—one question, one answer.

The question: How many millions of dollars in a trillion? While you are thinking about it, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the enormous Federal debt that is now about \$13 billion shy of \$5 trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business Tuesday, January 30, the total Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,987,589,544,052.52. Another depressing figure means that on a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$18,931.32.

Mr. President, back to our quiz (how many million in a trillion?): There are a million million in a trillion, which means that the Federal Government will shortly owe five million million dollars.

Now who's not in favor of balancing the Federal budget?

TIME TO PRIVATIZE THE WILLIAM LANGER PLANT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, late Friday evening the Senate passed by voice vote S. 1544, a bill of mine to permit the conveyance of the William Langer Plant to the Job Development Authority of the city of Rolla, ND. The bill is crucial to the immediate economic future of the plant, which is why I sought its expedited approval. I am glad to say that my good friend and senior colleague from North Dakota, Senator CONRAD, cosponsored S. 1544, which now goes over to the House.

Most of my colleagues have probably never been to Rolla, and do not know what the Langer Plant is, or what it has been doing over the past several decades. So let me describe the background and purpose of my bill.

The Langer Plant has roots in the cold war. Back in the 1950's, our defense leadership realized that we lacked the ability to produce jewel bearings, which are finely machined bits of carborundum and were crucial components in military avionics systems. So the Congress located a jewel bearing plant in our State, because of our strategic location in the middle of the country. The Langer Plant has been making jewel bearings as a government-owned, contractor-operated facility since the 1950's.

My colleagues should also know that the plant is a few miles from the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Of the plant's 100 or so employees remaining after a downsizing, about 60 percent are Native American. The Langer Plant brings crucial skilled jobs to an economically depressed area.

However, changing technology means that the National Defense Stockpile no longer needs to buy jewel bearings. The Defense Department has now reported the plant to the General Services Ad-

ministration as surplus property. Those of my colleagues who are dealing with base closures and defense downsizing know that this situation presents Rolla with a crisis and an opportunity.

The future of this factory depends on its ability to become a commercial manufacturer. Normal surplus property rules would require the GSA to sell the plant for fair market value. The problem is that no local entity can afford the plant, which had an original cost of \$4.2 million. The plant itself is not now healthy enough in a business sense to finance its own acquisition by a new management team.

In fact, the plant's economic position is so tenuous that the plant will likely run out of money in March, because it has not had a chance to build a strong commercial customer base. The plant has worked hard to cut costs, and it has already had to cut its workforce by 30 percent. I am deeply concerned that the plant may fold before it can be auctioned.

My colleagues will understand that as a government-owned facility, the plant is not able to compete freely, nor is it eligible for the kind of small business or economic development assistance that is available to private sector firms. However, once conveyed, the plant will be in a position to aggressively seek commercial contracts and assistance from the State and other agencies.

I would like to stress to the Senate that the Rolla community, the State of North Dakota, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and the local business community have been working hard to ensure that the plant makes a successful transition to the private sector. The local community is united behind the plan to transfer the Plant to the Job Development Authority of the city of Rolla. Of course, the conveyance is conditional on the community and the General Services Administration reaching a mutually acceptable legal agreement on the conveyance. But I am confident that the GSA and the community can reach that agreement swiftly.

Let me also remind my colleagues that in September the Senate approved by voice vote an amendment of mine to the defense authorization bill that was exactly identical to the bill that we passed on Friday. So this is the second time that the Senate has approved this legislation.

Let me thank the Chair and ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Senators STEVENS and GLENN, for their support of this bill. And the Chair and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Senators THURMOND and NUNN, have been helpful to me for almost half a year now. Senator MCCAIN has also assisted in expediting this conveyance. I am deeply grateful to all five senators and their staffs for the support and assistance they have given me on this matter.